



House Majority
State of Utah

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9 • MARCH 1-5, 2021



WEEK 7 OF THE 2021 GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Today marks the 45th
and final day of the
2021 Legislative
Session!

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Representatives

Affordable Housing

This week, legislative leaders and philanthropic representatives held a press conference to announce a public-private partnership in addressing affordable housing and homelessness. To address these challenges, the Utah Legislature will use \$50 million in state funds and through the support of the philanthropic community, amplify that investment to almost three-quarters of a billion dollars in impact. Read more [here](#).



100 YEARS OF AGRICULTURE

This week, the Legislature passed HCR 21 recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture and Food. Every living former commissioner joined us in the gallery as we read the resolution.



Rep. Jon Hawkins

There was not a dry eye in the chamber as we said hello to Rep. Jon Hawkins. Rep. Hawkins has been in the ICU battling COVID-19 and has been unable to participate in the legislative session. Watching Rep. Hawkins cast a few votes and speak to his colleagues was the most memorable and special moment of the entire session.



Executive Appropriations Committee

The Executive Appropriations Committee met Thursday evening to finalize the budget to present to the full bodies before the session ends. Additional items to the budget included caucus approved fiscal note bills and HB 433 Amendments Related to Infrastructure Funding, which provides \$834,600,000 for infrastructure projects throughout the state. This is the largest single one-time investment in infrastructure and an incredible investment into Utah's future.

2021 Session Recap

We asked our reps about their greatest accomplishments from the session and how it will make life better for Utahns. Check out some of their responses!



Representative Winder- HB 81 Mental Health Days for Students. "Mental or behavioral health" is now listed among the reasons why a parent can excuse a child for school. This not only helps vulnerable youth who are at a breaking point, but it sends a loud message to our youth that their physical AND mental health matters.



Representative Watkins- HB 73 Drug Testing Amendments- This bill eliminates hair follicle testing that is often discriminatory towards individuals with dark or coarse hair



Representative Johnson- HB 303 Emergency Medical Services Revisions. Municipalities and counties are now required to ensure that an adequate level of 911 ambulance services are provided. This will especially help rural Utah so that needs of residents and visitors can more readily be met.



Representative Ballard- HB 326 Budget Reporting Requirements- This bill requires any entity, private or public, who receives money from the state to submit a self audit yearly. They will need to report on performing metrics, optimization, and efficiencies.

COVID-19 Update

Salt Lake and Davis counties are moving to the moderate phase on the state's transmission index. The index has three levels of transmission- high, moderate, and low. According to the Utah Department of Health, the moderate transmission phase allows public gatherings such as live events, movie theaters, sporting events, weddings, recreation, and entertainment with side-by-side seating as long as all patrons are wearing a mask and are free from COVID-19 symptoms.

LEVEL OF TRANSMISSION

HIGH

MODERATE

LOW

(Image from ABC 4)

Vaccine Update



Vaccines will now be available for anyone 50 years. As well as those with diabetes, a BMI of 30 or higher, and anyone with chronic kidney disease. The Governor also announced his hope in having vaccines available to all Utahns starting on April 1st. To learn more, click [here](#).

New Utah State Parks

The Legislature passed HB 257 Utah State Park Amendments which will create two new state parks: Utahraptor State Park and Lost Creek State Park.

Located in the Moab area, Utahraptor State Park will cover 6500 acres with campgrounds, trails, and endless outdoor recreational opportunities. The park is named after the Utah State dinosaur and is near a huge deposit of dinosaur bones.



Another new state park, Lost Creek, 365 surface acre lake, is located in the mountains of Northern Utah and is popular for fishing, ice fishing, and wakeless boating.

In addition to the state parks, the Legislature will appropriate millions of dollars to drastically assist the Division of Parks and Recreation in improving and expanding recreation access across the entire state, which will help alleviate the growing demand for outdoor recreation. The improvements will increase outdoor recreation in Utah and benefit local economies and park visitors. The funding will add approximately 500 campsites to the state's overall campsite inventory and expand public parking by 10% which will add around 1000 additional visitor parking spaces. When completed, these investments will mean we will be able to accommodate literally thousands of additional visitors each weekend at our state parks!

Policy Highlights

S.B. 195 Emergency Response Amendments (Rep. Peterson) aims to bring greater balance to power in emergency situations. It addresses limits in the length of time that health departments and the executive branch can put into place emergency mandates.



H.B. 294 Pandemic Emergency Powers Amendments (Rep. Ray) allows for the termination of emergency powers and public health emergency powers related to COVID-19 upon reaching a certain threshold of vaccination and recovery.



Podcast

From funding state parks to double tracking the Frontrunner, House Majority Whip Mike Schultz joins us this week to talk about his bill that will be one of the largest infrastructure investments in Utah's history. Listen [here](#)!

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REP HIGHLIGHT

REPRESENTATIVE KERA BIRKELAND

Representative Birkeland is one of our newer House members. She has lived in New York, Montana, and is now serving the people of District 53 in Duchesne, Morgan, Rich, Summit, and Uinta Counties. Representative Birkeland brings integrity and accountability to our state legislature. Her experience as a small business owner and a foster parent have given her valuable insight into the importance of conservative policies at the state level.



She knows firsthand how unnecessary regulations can strangle fledgling small businesses, and has experienced how bureaucracy and budgeting decisions impact the success of state programs (such as the foster care system). Kera is a wife and mother of six. Her skills as a basketball referee are crucial for success in the Utah State House!

BILLS PASSED THIS WEEK

THIS WEEK THE HOUSE PASSED 65 BILLS. A TOTAL OF 455 BILLS THIS SESSION SO FAR. (AS OF THURSDAY AT 5 PM)

H.B. 2 Public Education Budget Amendments
H.B. 3 Current Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations
H.B. 146 Overdose Harm Reduction Working Group
H.B. 154 Use of Force Revisions
H.B. 218 Reporting Requirement Amendments
H.B. 251 Electronic Location Amendments
H.B. 294 Pandemic Emergency Powers Amendments
H.B. 314 Motorboat Agreements Act
H.B. 345 School Resource Officers Amendments
H.B. 353 Barber Licensing Amendments
H.B. 375 Agriculture Amendments
H.B. 378 Education Standards Review Committee Amendments
H.B. 380 Medical Examiner Revisions
H.B. 389 Medicaid Recovery Amendments
H.B. 394 Collection Agency Amendments
H.B. 402 School Transportation Funding Amendments
H.B. 404 Utah Immigration Assistance Center
H.B. 406 Marriage Revisions
H.B. 409 Municipal and County Land Use and Development Revisions
H.B. 410 Juvenile Justice Amendments
H.B. 415 Executive Order Review Process Amendments
H.B. 416 Local Tax Sales Amendments
H.B. 421 Intensive Services Pilot Program
H.B. 422 Political Subdivision Civil Liability Amendments
H.B. 425 Education Monitoring and Funds Management Amendments
H.B. 426 Therapy Animals Amendments
H.B. 433 Amendments Related to Infrastructure Funding
H.C.R. 21 Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the 100th Year Anniversary of the Department of Agriculture and Food
H.C.R. 22 Concurrent Resolution Celebrating the Contributions of Multilingual and Multicultural Families to Utah Schools
H.C.R. 23 Concurrent Resolution in Support of Criminal Justice Restoration and Reform
H.J.R. 16 Joint Resolution Honoring Helen Foster Snow
H.J.R. 17 Joint Rules Resolution -- Procedural Amendments
H.R. 7 Resolution Honoring Legislative Staff
H.R. 8 Resolution to Protect Utah's Institutions of Higher Education from Chinese Communist Party Influence
S.B. 2 New Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act
S.B. 11 Military Retirement Income Tax Amendments
S.B. 12 Reauthorization of Administrative Rules
S.B. 15 Workforce Solutions for Air Quality Amendments
S.B. 17 Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force Extension
S.B. 19 Expanded Infertility Treatment Coverage Pilot Program Amendments
S.B. 27 Physician Assistant Act Amendments
S.B. 34 Governmental Use of Facial Recognition Technology

S.B. 37 Public Infrastructure District Revisions
S.B. 40 Storage Tanks Amendments
S.B. 42 Tax Commission Collection Amendments
S.B. 47 Mental Health Crisis Intervention Council
S.B. 48 State Flag Amendments
S.B. 53 Behavioral Emergency Services Amendments
S.B. 63 Caregiver Compensation Amendments
S.B. 68 Law Enforcement Weapons Amendments
S.B. 73 Vehicle Registration Checkoff and Fee Amendments
S.B. 86 Amendments to the Price Controls During Emergencies Act
S.B. 92 Elections Amendments
S.B. 98 Asset Forfeiture Amendments
S.B. 103 Dental Hygienist Amendments
S.B. 104 Tax Levy for Animal Control
S.B. 107 In-person Instruction Prioritization
S.B. 117 Human Smuggling Amendments
S.B. 127 Human Services Program Amendments
S.B. 137 Alcoholic Beverage Control Retail Store Amendments
S.B. 140 Pharmacy Benefit Amendments
S.B. 142 Public Education Funding Amendments
S.B. 143 Revenue Bond and Capital Facilities Amendments
S.B. 153 Utah Personal Exemption Amendments
S.B. 154 Teacher Salary Supplement Program Amendments
S.B. 155 988 Mental Health Crisis Assistance
S.B. 156 Criminal Offense Amendments
S.B. 159 Law Enforcement Data Management Requirements
S.B. 161 Mental Health Systems Amendments
S.B. 164 Utah Housing Affordability Amendments
S.B. 167 Utah Film Economic Incentives
S.B. 181 Department of Government Operations
S.B. 188 Procurement Code Revisions
S.B. 193 Higher Education Performance Funding
S.B. 194 Utah Main Street Program
S.B. 199 Water Amendments
S.B. 215 Sex Offender Registry Amendments
S.B. 218 Aviation Amendments
S.B. 222 Public Official and State Capitol Protection Amendments
S.B. 228 Electronic Free Speech Amendments
S.B. 234 Statewide Online Education Program Amendments
S.B. 246 Child and Family Services Investigative Amendments
S.B. 249 County Jails Amendments
S.C.R. 4 Concurrent Resolution Recognizing Utah's Important Relationship with Western Governors University
S.J.R. 3 Joint Resolution Dissolving Smithfield City Justice Court